AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior claim versions and listings:

1. (Currently Amended)   A network contents managing system on a network including a personal computer, portable terminals, storage apparatuses, set top boxes and the like, the system comprising:

a contents database retaining information about content files which are distributed to and stored in different apparatuses connected to the network;

a retrieval request detection unit for detecting a retrieval request to the contents database and outputting retrieval request information;

a network monitoring unit for monitoring, by at least one of detecting messages using middle-ware and periodically monitoring a network apparatus configuration, a change in an apparatus connection state to the network and, upon occurrence of a change in the connection state, outputting a new apparatus connection state as connection state information;

a contents monitoring unit for outputting contents modification information when the content file stored in any of the apparatuses connected to the network is modified as a result of one of a mounting and a removing of a removable medium;

a database retrieval unit for retrieving from the contents database the retained information upon receipt of the retrieval request information and outputting a retrieval result information;

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a database managing unit for performing registration and modification to the contents database, the contents database retaining accessibility information for each content file, the accessibility information for each content file being updated upon receipt of the connection state information and the contents modification information; and

a retrieval result output unit for outputting the retrieval result information received from the database retrieval unit, to an apparatus which has made the retrieval request thereby reporting the accessibility of content.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A network contents managing system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the network monitoring ~~units~~ unit detects a power on/off of the apparatuses connected to the network and retains in the contents database the retained information reflecting the power on/off of the apparatuses connected to the network.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) A network contents managing system as claimed in Claim 1, the system further comprising a power monitoring unit for monitoring a power operation of an apparatus connected to the network and a remote start unit for activating at least one of the contents database, the retrieval request detection unit, the network monitoring unit, the database retrieval unit, the database managing unit, and the retrieval result output unit at another apparatus connected to the network.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) A network contents managing system as claimed in Claim 3, the system further comprising a power monitoring unit for monitoring a power operation of an apparatus connected to the network and a remote start unit for activating at least one of

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the contents database, the retrieval request detection unit, the network monitoring unit, the database retrieval unit, the database managing unit, and the retrieval result output unit at another apparatus connected to the network.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original)   A network contents managing system as claimed in Claim 5, the system further comprising a power operation unit for operating a power of another apparatus connected to the network.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented)   A network contents managing system as claimed in Claim 7, the system further comprising a power operation unit for operating a power of another apparatus connected to the network.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original)   A network contents managing system as claimed in Claim 1, the system further comprising a database edition unit for enabling a user to edit the contents database.

14. (Previously Presented)   A network contents managing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the contents database associates the content file with an apparatus identification number, and retains the apparatus identification number while including apparatus usable state data with the apparatus identification number; and

the database managing unit performs registration and modification to the contents database upon receipt of the connection state information and the contents modification information.

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15. (Previously Presented)   A network contents managing system as claimed in claim 14, wherein

the database managing unit changes the apparatus usable state data not shown in the connection state to be unusable.

16. (Previously Presented)   A network contents managing system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the database managing unit changes the apparatus usable state data of the information including the apparatus identification number shown in the connection state to be usable.